

Who will participate in the PSA?

A PSA will require participation from a wide range of personnel, companies, and agencies, some of which may not be traditionally thought of as part of the port. Depending on the port, participants may include:

- Port Authority Personnel
- Facility and Terminal Personnel
- Federal, State, and Local Law Enforcement and Emergency Response Personnel
- Local Utility Providers
- Local Military Installations
- Local Pilots and Tug Operators
- Vessel Operators

How will I know when my port is scheduled for a PSA?

The Coast Guard will contact you when your port is scheduled for Port Security Assessment. Your cooperation in this process will help facilitate the PSA program and will play an important role in improving security across our shared port community.



United States Coast Guard



For more information

If you received this brochure as part of a package from your COTP, it will also have a letter detailing your local point of contact for PSA information.



Port Security Assessment



United States Coast Guard

August 18, 2002

Protecting our nation's ports

As witnessed on September 11, 2001, non-traditional attacks on our nation's infrastructure can significantly harm both our military power and our economy. Though the country withstood this attack, others are possible, and assessments of our vulnerability to them must be addressed. Presidential Decision Directive 63 states that the U.S. Government will take steps to identify minimum essential critical infrastructure for each sector of the economy and then prepare plans to protect the infrastructure from intentional physical or cyber attack. The U.S. Coast Guard is the lead agency for addressing critical infrastructure related to waterborne commerce.



Our nation's ports are vital to our economy and national security. The Interagency Commission's August 2000 Report on Crime and Security in U.S. Seaports clearly stated that our ports are vulnerable to terrorist attack, and that such an attack could have significant national security consequences.

Since September 11, the need for improved security in our nation's ports has become an issue of high national priority. The U.S. Government quickly responded to this need by creating the Port Security Assessment (PSA) Program, meeting the Commission's recommendation that the U.S. Coast Guard conduct port assessments for militarily and economically strategic seaports.



What is the PSA Program?

The mission of the U.S. Coast Guard PSA program is to make federal, state, and local government agencies and other appropriate port stakeholders aware of the susceptibility of maritime critical infrastructure and assets to negative consequences from intentional acts, accidents, and natural disasters. The PSA program also intends to recommend mitigation strategies to protect the public, the environment, and U.S. economic interests as required for national security. To meet this mission, the U.S. Coast Guard will conduct Port Security Assessments on the nation's militarily and economically strategic ports, and provide tools for all ports to measure and address their own vulnerabilities and risks. System elements assessed by the PSA teams include:

- Maritime Domain Awareness
- Command, Control, Communications, and Coordination
- Plans, Policies, and Procedures
- Critical Infrastructure
- National Security Support
- Physical Security and Access Control
- Cargo Control
- Vessel Control
- Crisis/Consequence Management

What will result from a PSA?

The PSA will result in a comprehensive report that includes an assessment of port asset vulnerabilities, impact analysis of damage/loss to critical port assets, interdependencies of critical port assets, recommendations for mitigating vulnerabilities, and other information pertinent to the development of port security plans.

In addition to providing this type of information on a port-by-port basis, the PSA program will compile information gathered during all PSAs (U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters-sponsored and locally conducted) to identify trends on a national basis. The U.S. Coast Guard seeks to identify trends in both common risks and vulnerabilities across port and facility types, as well as best practices for mitigating vulnerabilities and increasing port security.



Who will conduct the PSA?

The top militarily and economically strategic ports will be assessed by highly skilled teams combining the U.S. Coast Guard, defense, transportation, law enforcement, and commercial expertise. Team members include:

- Structural Engineers
- Utility Engineers
- Environmental Engineers
- Weapons of Mass Destruction Experts
- Counterterrorism Experts
- Port Operations Analysts
- Maritime Domain Awareness Experts
- IT Security/Information Assurance Experts
- Stakeholder Relations/Public Affairs Specialists

For the ports not receiving a Headquarters-sponsored PSA, a specially designed tool based on the PSA will be distributed to the U.S. Coast Guard Captains of the Port. This tool is designed to allow the Captain of the Port to carry out a PSA using U.S. Coast Guard personnel and selected local port stakeholders, and will provide results consistent with those of the Headquarters-sponsored assessments.

